Bloomfield Citizen.

WEEKLY JOURNAL

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THE CITIZEN solicits contributions from the general public on any subject—political, religious, educational, or social—so long as they do not contain any personal attacks.

All communications must be accompanied by the writer's name, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith.

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 1904.

Time for Action.

Councilman James M. Walker has been one of the most aggressive opponents of the purchase of the R. N. Dodd property for fire-house and other municipal purposes. Mr. Walker has made the statement that he could secure a site which, in his judgment, was a better location, and provide plans for a new building not to cost over $25,000, and to be as complete in its provisions as what the architect's plans show that the Dodd building includes. If Mr. Walker has a site selected and plans for a building that fulfil all that he claims, he should submit them at once, and not later than Monday night. The air has been full of rumors of better sites and better buildings than the Dodd property ever since the municipal building project has been under discussion by the Council, but all such propositions have remained suspended in the air. There is not a word on record to show that any one will sell property to the town for a municipal building, including a police station and local jail; but, on the other hand, there has been ample protest from property owners in the vicinity of two proposed sites that such a building was not wanted in the localities named. Neither are there any plans on paper showing where all the advantages of the Dodd property can be reproduced in another site or another building for the same amount of money. It is actual and not airy things that count in the present agitation of the municipal building question. In the case of the Dodd property there is a written agreement to sell, the price is named, and there are plans drawn by a competent architect that show that the building can be made to meet all the town requirements in the way of office and storage-room and jail, as well as accommodate two fire companies, and the estimates of builders as to the cost of these necessary changes are also submitted. These things are all practical and tangible. Thus far Mr. Walker and those who oppose the purchase of the Dodd building have brought forward nothing but suggestions and propositions, and appear to be fighting for delay.

The claim is made that the people are opposed to any further bonding of the town for any purpose whatever. Mr. Walker has used that supposed state of the public mind as one of his heaviest clubs, against the purchase of the Dodd building. What are the facts? When the question of municipal ownership of of the water plant was submitted to the people to vote upon, every taxpayer in the town was well aware that a large issue of bonds was involved in the election. A majority of the people who voted favored the purchase of the plant; the people who did not vote evidenced by their action that they did not care a rap one way or the other about the bond question. This demonstrates very clearly that there is no such great public dread of bonds as has been pictured by Mr. Walker. The election effectually disposed of the bond bugaboo by proving that the people were indifferent on that subject. It is an unwise policy for any member of the Council to keep public affairs in a state of turmoil, such as has been in evidence during this long protracted discussion of the fire-house question. The firemen have been on the point of disbanding and leaving the town without fire protection, so disgusted and angry were they with the procrastinating policy of the minority in the Council. It is a dangerous expedient to violently oppose any public measure on abstract grounds. The opposition should show some evidences of sincerity by submitting options for property, plans for buildings and estimates of cost, and then it would be a mere question of deciding between two definite propositions. The firemen's choice in this matter should also have weight with the members of the Council. The members of Essex Truck Company and of Phoenix Hose Company expressed their choice of the Dodd building as a site for a fire-house, and at a meeting of Phoenix Hose Company, called for the express purpose of trying to force a reconsideration of that preference, the majority of the members again went on record in favor of the Dodd building, and it is significant that the majority vote was made up exclusively of taxpaying property owners, while the minority largely consisted of those not owning property or paying taxes.

In the face of all this Mr. Walker cannot but realize that if he is going to continue his opposition he must produce something more tangible than talk.

Startling Figures.

Chairman Farnham Yardley, of the East Orange City Council's Water Committee, reported at Monday night's meeting of the Council the result of the recent conference with the Newark Water Board, when East Orange was given an ultimatum that water would be sold to East Orange at a cost of $100 a million gallons, refusing to consider any period less than a year at a lower rate. The Newark officials, Mr. Yardley said, however, agreed to continue the present rate, $80 a million gallons, if a contract were made for twelve months.

"The only explanation the Board of Works would give for this uncharitable, unfriendly, and unneighborly action," Mr. Yardley stated, "was that their water system had cost a considerable sum and they needed the money."

Some inaccuracies in a newspaper report of the amount of water used by East Orange and furnished by Newark authorities were denounced by Mr. Yardley. He stated that the work in the city water system was delayed by the cold weather, but would be completed in the near future.

Two pumps, with a capacity of 4,000,000 gallons each per day would be installed at White Oak Ridge with three boilers. The committee's plans for the machinery were approved and advertisements will be solicited for bids.

Mr. Yardley gave figures showing the water taken from Newark, and the total amount used in the city, then called attention to the fact that at the present time every man, woman, and child in East Orange is using 123 gallons of water a day. This, Mr. Yardley said, was out of all reason, and a wilful, if not a criminal waste. The committee had given earnest consideration to this tremendous use of water, and believed there was considerable leakage, due no doubt to defective plumbing.

The city uses almost 3,000,000 gallons a day or a little more. January 21, 1,176,000 gallons were received from Newark, and January 20, 1,672,000 gallons. During the cold weather, Mr. Yardley explained, more water was used than at other times.

William J. Birdsall was appointed clerk in the department.

Right Way to Sell Water.

The people of East Orange were startled Tuesday when the report of the Water Committee of the Town Council was published and showed that the city was consuming upwards of three millions of gallons of water daily.

The East Orange *Gazette* in commenting on the enormous consumption of water says: "The recent severe cold weather shows the usual enormous increase in water consumption and suggests the introduction of meters as the most feasible remedy either in the way of reducing the consumption or of increasing the revenues to meet the additional draft. Under the existing annual rates the easiest and cheapest way for a householder to save his plumbing in severe weather is to let the water run, and that is unquestionably responsible for the enormous consumption. If the water thus wasted had to be paid for at meter rates some other method would be found to avoid freezing, or else the man who resorted to it would pay for the water he wasted. With a minimum rate fixed sufficiently high to cover ordinary use and a meter rate for all excessive use, there would no doubt be a substantial increase of water revenues and it would be paid by the people who use the water and not by the public at large, whether or no."

Now that the people of Bloomfield have voted to purchase the Orange Water Company's plant and in operating that plant the town will have to pay by meter measurement for all the water used. A main point in economic management of the water plant will be to keep down the consumption of water to the minimum, and one way to do that is to sell water by meter measurement. There are many families in this town who are anxious to have meter system of paying for water adopted.

Phoenix Hose Company's Meeting.

The members of Phoenix Hose Company No. 1 held a meeting Wednesday night, at which the proposed purchase of the R. N. Dodd property was discussed. At a joint meeting of the members of Essex Hook and Ladder Company and Phoenix Hose Company, held on Thursday evening of last week, it was voted to recommend to the Fire Committee of the Town Council to purchase the R. N. Dodd property as a site for a fire-house for the accommodation of the two companies. Some of the members of Phoenix Hose Company were not satisfied with the decision of the joint meeting, and asked for a separate meeting of Phoenix Company for further consideration of the matter. Fourteen members of the company were present at the meeting, and William Douglas presided. The discussion was an animated one, and opinions were freely and emphatically expressed. The result of the meeting was a majority vote to stand by the action of the joint meeting.

Bob-sleighing has been enjoyed by large parties on Franklin hill during the past week.

Mr. Clancy's Art Lecture.

The third in the series of free lectures under the auspices of the Board of Education took place in Centre School Hall Thursday night, and was largely attended. The subject was "Italian Painting," and was the second of two lectures on that theme by George E. Clancy. The topic Thursday night was the Central Italian and Venetian Schools of Artists. Mr. Clancy gave a biographical sketch of several noted Italian masters and some historical notes in reference to their principal works, and some of these were displayed by means of a stereoptican, and a critical analysis of them made by the lecturer.

Important Lecture.

The next lecture in the course of free lectures given under the auspices of the Board of Education will be one of particular interest to the workingmen of this town. The lecturer, Henry R. Mussey of the New York University, has achieved a high reputation as a lecturer on economic subjects. "The Cost of a Thing and the Pay of its Maker," will be the subject of the lecture and will involve the industrial problems of the present day. The lecture will take place on Thursday evening, February 4, in Centre School hall.

Berkeley Neighborhood Club.

There was a large attendance at the monthly meeting of the Berkeley School Neighborhood Club on Thursday night in Berkeley School hall. Mrs. Margaret E. Sangster of Glen Ridge gave an interesting address and the Melrose Quartette sang several selections that were well received. Henry Albinson, the Melrose Quartette tenor, sang a solo and was loudly encored. A chorus of school children sang several selections. Samuel Ellor, President of the Club, presided over the meeting.

More Robberies

Thieves broke into Alfred H. Edgerley's new house on Watsessing avenue Thursday night and stole a quantity of carpenter's tools and cut out and took away some lead pipe used in the plumbing work. The house was built by James Y. Nicol and this is the fifth time in three years that carpenters in his employ have had their working tools stolen.

Some one bent on mischief or thievery broke into the Prospect Street school house Wednesday night. The only thing missing from the school is a pair of scissors.

Important Meeting.

The long pending Linden avenue improvement assessment case will be the subject of a conference to-night in the Town Council rooms. The members of the Sidewalk Committee, Engineer Olmsted and Contractor Callahan will be present. The Sidewalk Committee desire that all property owners affected by the assessment will make an effort to be present at the meeting.

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New Trolley Project.

The long projected plan for trolley service to residents of the northern part of East Orange is taking shape. While no information will be given by the Public Service Corporation officials, it has been known for some time that options have been secured on Springdale avenue and Dodd street.

The plan is to continue the line which ends at Orange road near North Park street, through the latter thoroughfare to Dodd street, to a point near Midland avenue. Then the line will go through private property, crossing the Erie road by bridge to Springfield avenue. Passing down the latter thoroughfare to Fourteenth street, the new road will connect with the Orange street and Market, Warren and Bank street lines. This will make a continuous trolley line from Upper Montclair, at a point beyond Mt. Hebron Cemetery to Newark.

It is said on good authority that the application for a franchise will be made to the East Orange City Council at an early date. The building of this road will destroy all hopes that the Essex Cross Railway Company had of securing a franchise for crossing the city from north to south, and upon which scheme a large sum of money was spent, principally in securing options.

Empire Theatre.

One of the charming features of the dramatization of the episodes in the life of Robert Emmet by Brandon Tynan, is the sustaining of the love interest and the devotion to each other of Robert Emmet and Sarah Curran. That tenderest of romances has been skilfully worked out by the author in a most delicate manner, and he has added to the pathos of its hopelessness by several masterly touches which have developed it into a story of rare beauty. Mr. Robert Conness' portrayal of Emmet's passion for the daughter of the celebrated Curran is one of the cleverest bits of acting in the performance of "Robert Emmet," which will be given at the Empire Theatre, Newark, for the week beginning February 1. Matinees Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. For the opening night of this engagement, Monday, February 1, handsome and costly souvenirs will be given to commemorate the 421st performance. Every lady will be presented with an imported china cream and sugar set, 2 pieces, hand painted.

Euchre Party.

A euchre was held at Union Hall, Tuesday night under the auspices of the Catholic Lyceum. Thomas H. Higgins acted as manager. First prize, a course in business college, was won by William Dunn, while second prize, a trip to Boston, was captured by Miss Margaret Higgins. The $2.50 gold piece was won by John Flannagan. John Woods secured an umbrella, Elizabeth Larkin a sofa pillow, and J. A. Weimar a cup and saucer.

Peter Ingold's Funeral.

The funeral of Peter Ingold took place from the Park Avenue German Presbyterian Church, Thursday. The services were conducted by the Rev. R. J. Buttinghausen, pastor of the church, and the interment was in Bloomfield Cemetery.

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After Scalpers.

The head officials of the Lackawanna Railroad are making a determined effort to stop ticket scalping along the line of that road. Their latest move was the employment of two detectives, who, after working as painters at the car shops for a while, to enable them to get a line on things, attempted to buy a trip ticket from a Sussex street stationer but didn't succeed. They were more successful in two other places, and the respective sellers are out just so much money, the tickets having been confiscated.

Bowling Match.

A match was rolled Tuesday night between the Owl Bowling Club of this town and the Montclair Swedish-American Club on Leuthausser's alleys. The Owls won two games. The scores:

OWL B. C.			M. S. A		
Bloch,	160	159	C. Benson,	119	110
Noll,	118	157	A. Benson,	104	141
Hildebrant,	101	144	S. Carlson,	122	111
Nicolai,	115	120	J. Swenson,	143	151
Getticher	164	121	O. Carlson,	129	143
Booth,	134	139	C. Swenson,	159	129
Ashby,	146	154	D. Mabey,	116	129
Leuthausser,	185	223	J. Carlson,	165	116
Totals,	1123	1217	Totals,	1056	1030

The Epworth League of the Watsessing M. E. Church held an entertainment last night.

BLOOMFIELD

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